# \*\*ATTENTION\*\*

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## Support Nongame Wildlife

Personalized license plates are becoming a common sight along the highways of Washington. Besides relaving a personal message, these plates go a long way toward helping to manage this state's nongame wildlife.

The Nongame Wildlife Program, which has responsibility for more than 500 wildlife species, is funded in large part by the sale of personalized plates, along with some matching funds through the Federal Endangered Species Act. The Nongame Wildlife Program receives no funding through general tax revenues or hunting license fees.

The public can support the Nongame Wildlife Program through the purchase of personalized plates from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Plates are permanently assigned to the individual and can be transferred to another car for a nominal fee.

Baid Eagles on gravel bar Caspian Tem #2 Harbor Seals on beach Trumpeter Swans feeding Killdeer feigning broken wing Baid Eagle on nest with young John Schoen

**Erlc Cummins** Fred Hosea Sue Mathews John Munn Danny On

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## **ENJOY WASHINGTON'S** WILDLIFE



## WITH CARE.

As more and more of us seek the outdoors of Washington, our increased activities may disturb wildlife. Research has shown that outdoor recreationists, including wildlife viewers, can have an impact on wildlife. This pamphlet is directed towards the individual recreationist, and describes how enthusiasm for wildlife can unintentionally result in severe damage to the animal being viewed. Please inform yourself and others about situations which may disturb wildlife.



#### WHAT IS DISTURBANCE?

It is difficult to predict what activities may cause disturbance. At times an activity can have no effect on one animal while stressing another. It is also possible that the same activity may have a different effect depending on the time of year. However, recreational disturbance usually occurs when humans approach too closely or when habitat is destroyed.

#### WAYS TO AVOID DISTURBING WILDLIFE

#### CROWDING

In trying to get a close look or a photograph of an animal, we are often guilty of crowding that animal, sometimes to the point of being unsafe to the viewer.

Suggestion: Use binoculars for viewing animals, and a telephoto lens for photos. Do not approach the animal, let it come to you.

## INTERFERENCE IN BREEDING ACTIVITIES

Disturbance during times of mating and rearing young may result in desertion and total reproductive loss. Suggestion: Restrict your and your pet's activities from known or suspected breeding and spawning areas; avoid animals with young.

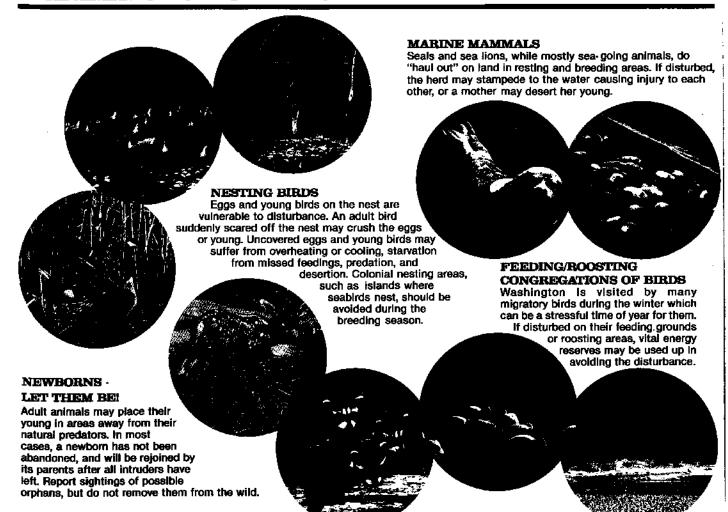
## HABITAT DESTRUCTION OR INTRUSION

Recreational activities like camping or off-road vehicle (ORV) use, when concentrated, can destroy the vegetation or water quality. A blaring radio, tape recorder, or unmuffled engine is an unnatural noise in the wild. Suggestion: Adopt the concept of "no trace" camping; use a headset with your radio or tape recorder; use designated ORV areas, and muffle your engine.

### FEEDING WILD ANIMALS

All wild animals are potentially dangerous, especially when they have lost their fear of humans because of feeding. Wild birds and small mammals may alter normal food caching behavior and migration patterns if food is artificially provided. Suggestion: Landscape your yard with plants which attract wildlife.

#### ANIMALS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO DISTURBANCE



ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON STATE LAW (RCW 77.16.020 and 77.16.120) IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HARASS PROTECTED BIRDS, MAMMALS, REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, AND INVERTEBRATES, OR THEIR EGGS OR NESTS. THESE LAWS ALSO APPLY TO GAME BIRDS, GAME ANIMALS, OR GAME FISH DURING CLOSED SEASONS.

## SIGNS OF DISTURBANCE — WHAT TO LOOK FOR

## BIRDS:

increased vocalization, feather ruffling, head bobbing, standing in the nest, circling over your head, dive bombing, pretending injury such as dragging a wing.



SEALS, SEA LIONS (on land): increased vocalizing, raising head up, sniffing the air, increased body movement.

## ELK, DEER, BEARS:

tail flicking, sniffing the air, foot stomping, grinding teeth, snorting.

